

Message Text

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15

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CAB-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00

L-03 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /070 W

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R 032317Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6556

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, MX, UR

SUBJECT: MEXICAN-SOVIET BILATERAL AVIATION AGREEMENT INKED

1. MEXICAN FOREIGN RELATIONS SECRETARY ALFONSO GARCIA ROBLES AND USSR VICE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION SERGEI PAVLOV SIGNED A BILATERAL AVIATION AGREEMENT IN MEXICO CITY AUGUST 2. THE AGREEMENT REPORTEDLY WILL PERMIT SERVICE BETWEEN MOSCOW AND MEXICO CITY WITH INTERMEDIATE STOPS BY THE DESIGNATED CARRIERS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES.

2. COMMENT: THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT BRINGS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION A RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN TO OBTAIN LANDING RIGHTS IN MEXICO. SEVERAL WEEKS AGO A GOM AVIATION SOURCE INDICATED THAT THE RUSSIANS WERE PRESSURING THE MEXICANS FOR AN AGREEMENT, BUT THE MEXICANS WERE NOT SURE THEY HAD ANYTHING TO GAIN FROM AN ACCORD. A MAJOR CONSIDERATION WITH RESPECT TO THE LATTER POINT MAY BE THE FACT THAT AEROMEXICO'S PRESENT SERVICE BETWEEN MEXICO CITY AND MADRID AND PARIS VIA MIAMI IS A NON-ECONOMIC OPERATION. EXTENDING THIS SERVICE TO MOSCOW WOULD ADD ADDITIONAL RED INK AND POSSIBLE AFFECT EQUIPMENT AVAILABILITY ON OTHER AEROMEXICO ROUTES. THIS MAY JUST BE TOO GREAT A PRICE TO PAY FOR PRESTIGE, PARTICULARLY AT A TIME WHEN EFFORTS ARE

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BEING MADE TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMICS OF AEROMEXICO'S

OPERATIONS, PARTICULARLY INTERNATIONALLY.

3. WHETHER GOM WILL EXERCISE ITS OPTION TO SERVICE
MOSCOW REMAINS TO BE SEEN. MEXICAN AND RUSSIAN
AVIATION OFFICIALS ARE CURRENTLY MEETING TO WORK OUT
THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE AGREEMENT. A PRESS REPORT
INDICATED AEROFLOT WOULD BEGIN SERVICE TO MEXICO CITY THE
END OF AUGUST. THIS REPORT WAS LABELED PREMATURE
BY A GOM SOURCE WHO INDICATED THREE MONTHS AS MORE
LIKELY, WITH AEROFLOT PROBABLY SERVING MEXICO CITY FROM
HAVANA.
JOVA

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